

SB 400 – Hearing (S) Fish and Game Committee
March 22, 2011 – Senator Chas Vincent

SENATE FISH AND GAME
EXHIBIT NO. 1
DATE 3/22/11
BILL NO. SB 400

- SB 400 does not conflict with I-161 in any way:
 - All licenses are in a drawing;
 - Generates some revenue for Block Management
 - No "entitlement" for outfitters (no set aside)
- Outfitter who operate under Forest Service use permits are uniquely vulnerable to the drawing system imposed by I-161.
- SB 400 is the first legislative attempt to raise the 17,000 nonresident big game licenses capped by the 1975 Legislature – with the exception of the Come Home to Hunt licenses adopted by the 2007 Legislature. The CHH licenses are only for nonresident family members.
- This B-10 license is ONLY valid in Congressionally-designated wilderness areas. The holder of this license cannot hunt elk outside of a wilderness area.
- Most nonresidents hunting in wilderness areas are probably guided. A Virginian doesn't fly into Great Falls and hunt the Scapegoat on his own.
- One third of Montana is public land; wilderness areas belong to all Americans.
- The Forest Service estimates @ 2,800 residents and nonresidents hunt in these 15 areas.
- The fiscal note projects \$1.8 million, which helps supports an inexpensive resident license.
- SB 400 provides some revenue for Block Management if any deer licenses are returned and re-issued by the Department.
- SB 400 was approved by a vote of the MOGA membership at their annual convention in January. Eastern Montana outfitters support SB 400 and wilderness outfitters.
- These outfitters clear the trails in the spring, which benefits everyone. They steward public lands and commit to protect and share these incredible natural resources.
- There are 13 counties in these wilderness areas. With the exception of Flathead, Lake and Missoula, all are rural.